

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NASA-04

EB-11 OTPE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01

/127 W

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O R 021555Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 105

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 7763

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN POSTPONEMENT OF DECISION ON PARTICIPATION IN
POST APOLLO

REF: PARIS 20549

1. ITALIAN PRESS AUG 1 CARRIED REPORTS THAT GOI WAS NOT RPT NOT
WILLING TO MAKE COMMITMENT ON PARTICIPATION IN POST APOLLO PROGRAM
BEFORE SEPT 15.

2. FRG EMBASSY COUNSELOR PALLASCH CALLED ON EMBOFF AUGUST 1 TO
INFORM US OF STEPS WHICH FRG TAKEN TO PRESS ITALIANS ON THEIR
PARTICIPATION. IN FRG AIDE MEMOIRE DATED JULY 6, IN LETTER
FROM EHMKE TO NEW MINISTER FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BUCALOSSI DATED
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JULY 11 AND IN ANOTHER FRG AIDE MEMOIRE DATED JULY 24, FRG

URGED GOI TO CONFIRM ITS PARTICIPATION IN SPACELAB PROJECT.
JULY 24 AIDE MEMOIRE ALSO URGED ITALIAN PARTICIPATION,
IF ONLY SYMBOLIC SORT, IN L3S.

3. ON JULY 30, PALLASCH LEARNED FROM TRELLA, SECRETARY GENERAL
OF INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR SPACE ACITIVITIES, THAT GOI
HAD DECIDED NOT TO COMMIT ITSELF TO PARTICIPATION AT ESRO
MEETING, AND FRG EMBASSY INFORMED BONN. PALLASCH REPORTS BRANDT
WAS INVOLVED IN DECISION TO REQUEST FRG AMBASSADOR IN ROME TO
GO IN ONCE AGAIN TO GOI. AMBASSADOR LAHR MET WITH PRIME
MINISTER RUMOR EARLY MORNING OF JULY 31. AIDE MEMOIRE
WHICH LAHR PRESENTED REMINDED GOI THAT US DEADLINE FOR PARTICIPATION
IN SPACELAB IS AUGUST 15; IT URGED RUMOR IN NAME OF BRANDT NOT
TO REFUSE GOI ADHERENCE TO SPACELAB AGREEMENT. GOI REPLY CAME TWO
HOURS LATER FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING - THAT GOI COULD MAKE
NO COMMITMENT UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER.

4. PRESS REPORTS THAT GOI COULD NOT RPT NOT MAKE DECISION NOW
TO PARTICIPATE IN SPACELAB BECAUSE IT WANTED TO RENEW REVIEW
BUDGET FOR 1974. PRESS ALSO CARRIED HEADLINES REPORTING
DRASTICALLY TRIMMED BUDGET FOR 1974 AIMING AT CONTAINING
GOVERNMENT DEFICIT. PROJECTED DEFICIT IS EQUIVALENT TO
14.8. BILLION DOLLARS IN A TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURE OF
44.5 BILLION DOLLARS. AMBASSADOR PLANS TO DISCUSS THIS
MATTER WITH FONMIN MORO AUG 3. ON BASIS DEPTTEL 151578
BUT IN VIEW OF ABOVE WE DOUBT STRONGLY THAT GOI WILL GIVE
US REQUESTED ASSURANCES PRIOR MID-SEPTEMBER. VOLPE

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